Broad St. Committee

Leicester, (Mass.) Sunday June 19. 1853.

Dear Miss Estlin;

I have three of your good father's letters, since I last wrote to him – April 15th (filled up & extended by yourself) – May 11th, (with a portion of a note from Mr Chamerovzow) – & May 20, from London, – (with your welcome addition –); and all of them containing documents of interest & value. – Week by week, almost day by day, have I purposed to write again, to thank him, & to communicate all we are doing here; but the last 5 or 6 weeks have been weeks of most constant occupation, involving considerable travelling, with much anxiety for my wife's health, which has been very poor, though now decidedly improving. But his letters (& yours) have travelled with me, – have been read again & again – read & discussed with Mr Garrison, and again with Mr Quincy, & been sent to Anne Weston. So much has he been in all our thoughts, – with yourself, – & your unwearied, devoted labours for the Cause of them who can never recompense you. Not a little anxiety have I felt for him, for a year past; but perhaps less of it for the last three months, – his spirit seemed so buoyant, so hopeful, so eager – his mind so clear, his ability to plan & execute so full & entire; – when, yesterday, just at noon-time, came the sad intelligence of his illness in London, communicated by Mr Armstrong in a few hurried lines, without date or particulars, save that it was a paralytic attack (slight & not immediately dangerous, Mr A. said) – that Miss Pugh & Mr McKim were with him, – & that he was soon expected at Bristol. The letter was post-marked June 2d. I await, with the greatest desire, & anxious feeling, further accounts. – My entire uncertainty as to how ill he may be makes it difficult for me to write. – How I wish I were where I could step in, and minister to him, and do for him what a friend might. I have never so painfully felt our ~~long~~ wide separation. It is indeed a *mystery* that we should lose his active help, and the wisdom of his counsels, just when we need them so much. For indeed I fear we must lose much of them, – even though his illness should take the most favourable turn possible. – It will not do for him to work as he has done – perhaps he will not be able to bear the excitement of a paper or of a letter even; – I cannot bear to think of it, and yet I have been able to think of little else since yesterday noon; – nor have I been able to set myself about any steady occupation. – I immediately copied Mr. Armstrong's few ~~[illegible]~~ lines, & sent them to Miss Anne Weston, ~~[illegible]~~ & another copy to Mr. Garrison. – Repeatedly during the last month, Mr. Garrison has broke out to me – "What a worker Mr. Estlin is!" "How firmly & patiently he follows up the work!", & the like. – We have all been exceedingly interested in his recent letters – say for 4 or 5 months past – & have held many a talk over them. My last one was with Mr. Quincy, on Thursday last, when we went very fully into the matters presented by your father & yourself, in your last 2 letters. He is about writing to R. D. Webb, on these topics, – Mr. W. having rebuked him in his last letter to Standard, – and he will go very fully, I doubt not, into the matter; and I think his explanation will be pretty generally satisfactory. Whatever he writes to Mr. Webb, I told him your father would doubtless see, (– alas! alas! that the faithful soldier has been, in any measure, disabled), and I hoped Mr. Chamerovzow would see it too. I must tell you that I read Mr. C.'s pages (wh. your father sent me) to Mr. Quincy, – for it seemed to me due to Mr. Q. that these criticisms on his Report, &c. should be ~~seen~~ known by him, & very important to his rightly understanding ~~them~~ & answering the objections made to that Report. Your father said they were for my eye only. No other person has seen them – not even Mr. Garrison, nor Anne W. – and I am sure no harm will come of showing them to Mr. Quincy. He will be sure to violate no confidence, and make no use of them that any of us would object to. I fully cautioned him on that point; & he said that Mr. Webb's letter gave him all the topics he needed for his reply.

I will write on, as my sheet is not full, and give you my views on a few matters – but, I pray you, don't *read on*, from any sense of obligation or courtesy; throw the letter aside, & let it not weary you, nor take one minute from your father, with whose claims I feel that I ~~[illegible]~~ may be interfering. — The B. & F. Antislavery Soc'y's Anniversary must have disappointed your father's hopes. The resolutions complimentary to John Scoble – do they not indicate a bad spirit in the Committee still, or in its chief Managers, Sturge, Alexander, & Gurney? Do they not show that Mr. Chamerovzow has not yet obtained the influence that your father expected, & which is so much to be desired? Something doubtless might be deemed due to Scoble, for form's sake; but these were something more than that. Mr. Ch. says that *we* must give the Broad St. Com. "full credit for high-mindedness & honesty". A most extraordinary demand! [redacted] The *Broad St. Committee* (Sturge & Co) surely are *not* blind to J. Scoble's inquisitorial & fraudulent course tow'ds E. Mathews. And yet, in the very face of that knowledge, – remembering too, as they must, Scoble's secret and underhanded measures to blacken & ruin Garrison's moral character, when in England, *and their own too-well-proven complicity in that wicked business*, – they can come forward, now, in face of & in spite of all those *facts*, & pass resolutions of honour, & compliment, and respect to that base man – J. Scoble! Must we give those men "full credit for high-mindedness & honesty"? If they cannot hold their tongues, & retire into Antislavery obscurity (as I was inclined to hope they would do, & let Mr. Ch. & honester men than they, give a direction & tone to Broad St. affairs), how can *we* be silent; much less, give them credit for high mindedness & honesty? I think Mr Chamerovzow may see now, why we cannot do this thing. We have no wish unnecessarily to revive any old difficulty; and were more than willing to adopt all your ~~[illegible]~~ excellent father's suggestions as to the course

MS.B.1.6 v.1.4. p.64

to be pursued towards the "Reporter" and all it represents — were ready to take Scoble's dismissal for all it could with propriety be made to mean. Then to have this Eulogium on Scoble, uttered before the 7000 in Exeter Hall, & published al over the Antislavery World, is too much. — With Mr. Ch. and his management of the "Reporter" we have no fault to find — at least I have not; & I have heard none. the Nos. I have seen have been manly & excellent; & he has noticed American affairs a catholic & generous spirit. I hope, for his own sake, he won't identify himsel too far with those men whose antislavery is of a sleek & comfortable sort, & much more likely to be seen, when in company with Dukes, Earls, & Ladies, than on any other occasion. — I only say this that you, & our London friends, may know our views & our reasons. It is not likely we shall have occasion to speak often of the Bd. St. Com., or its members; but when we do, you will not expect us to give them that "full credit", &c. Much more glad shall we be, to look at their Secretary & the Rep

And as to that other matter, of Mr. Quincy's notice of the Ladies' Address &c. in the la Mass. Soc'y's Ann'l Report; I was astonished at the view which Mr. Ch. & yourselves took of i I referred to the Report & read it carefully, & still c'd not see those things wh. Mr. Ch. sees & blames & censures so much. And first, those Bristol & Clifton res'ns were surely not brought in "ou of time" — for we had not seen them, here, till the Aug't preceding, & surely they were not res to be wholly passed over, because they happened to be passed late in 1851 — too late to be known in season for our report of Jan. 1852. — And, 2d, as to the Earl of Shaftesbury's Address; I could no perceive that more was said than to state the facts about it; its temperate language, and its freedom from denunciatory language, were stated, not to contrast it with any other address, bu simply as facts, & to show that, notwithstanding those facts, & the assumption to England hersel of a large share of the blame & guilt of Slavery here, the Address did not suit our republicans, bu called out the bitterest opposition. Then as to the gradualism of the E. of S.'s report, & its not bein satisfactory to Sturge & others on that point, — it seems the Earl's gradualism was limited to abou 3 years, which might pass for pretty good immediateism, one would think, with men whose g weapon of attack on American Slavery is to be the Disuse of her Cotton. Mr. Q., I presume, wa wrong, & Mr. Ch. right, in the matter of the rebuff by the Earl. Certainly Mr. C. must know h that was, and I admit it sh'd not have been mentioned, without pretty strong reason. — B Mr. Ch. is greatly in error when he says our Report apologises for gradual emanc'n. — Surely "ofte than it needs, I ween, To see what is not to be seen" — which I fearlessly aver is the fact in the pres case. — Mr. Quincy couldn't have been bribed or driven to do that. — And the reason that he alludes to the fact that Immed. Emanc. is not advocated, seemed to us, & still seems, too obvious, to be overlooked. — Mr. Ch. cannot su that charge; and I hope, after again looking at the matter, will not entertain it in his inmost thoughts. am willing to admit that the whole passage shows a distrustful feeling of the Bd. St. Com. But Mr. C. will not fail to

Whether we have much reason to feel Confidence in the Bri. & For. Committee. I think we can judge as well as ourselves. Surely we have quite as much cause to attribute the Scoble Resolutions to a hostile feeling towards us, [illegible] an insult to our Society "as" Mr. Ch. [illegible] "in our way," merely for the purpose [illegible] But Mr. Ch. says [illegible] as he says, of course, [illegible] the knuckles. [illegible] himself personally [illegible] of rapping them [illegible] a magnanimous [illegible] I must [illegible] rather [illegible] much unsaid.

Most truly yours,
Saml. May Jr.

remember that this was before we had known aught of his views, & his position; — I think before he had commenced editing the Reporter; certainly it was before I had ~~know~~ perceived the change in that Paper. Indeed, for a year or two back, & until recently, I have seldom looked at the Reporter.

Broad St. Committee